

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 7, 12-14, 20, 25 and 26, without prejudice, as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An immunological oral tolerance-inducing composition for prevention and/or treatment of atherosclerosis, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an active component selected from the group consisting of modified low density lipoprotein, oxidized low density lipoprotein (Ox LDL), heat shock protein 60/65 (HSP 60/65), beta₂-glycoprotein-1 (β₂-GP-1), functional derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for oral administration.

7. (Amended) An immunological oral tolerance-inducing composition according to claim 1, wherein said active component is a functional derivative of oxidized low-density lipoprotein (Ox LDL).

12. (Twice Amended) An immunological tolerance-inducing composition according to claim 1, wherein said modified low density lipoprotein is lysophosphatidyl choline (LPC).

13. (Amended) An immunological oral tolerance-inducing composition according to claim 1, wherein said modified low density lipoprotein is malondialdehyde LDL (MDA-LDL).

14. (Twice Amended) A method for prevention and/or treatment of atherosclerosis in a subject, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an immunological oral tolerance-inducing composition comprising an active component selected from the group consisting of modified low density lipoprotein, oxidized low density lipoprotein (Ox LDL), heat shock protein 60/65 (HSP 60/65), beta₂-glycoprotein-1 (β₂-GP-1), functional derivatives thereof and

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mixtures thereof, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for oral administration, thereby inhibiting at least one atherosclerosis-related symptom in said subject.

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20. (Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein said active component is a functional derivative of oxidized low-density lipoprotein (Ox LDL).

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25. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein said modified low density lipoprotein is lysophosphatidyl choline (LPC).

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26. (Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein said modified low density lipoprotein is malondialdehyde LDL (MDA-LDL).

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 1- 26 are in this case. Claims 2-4, 8-11, 15-17 and 21-24 were withdrawn under a restriction requirement as drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1, 5-7, 12-14, 18-20, 25 and 26 have been rejected. Claims 1, 7, 12- 14, 20, 25 and 26 have now been amended.

35 U.S.C. § 132, Objections

The Examiner has objected to amendments filed on April 23, 2002 under 35 U.S.C. § 132, as being introduction of new matter. The Examiner's objection is respectfully traversed. The former amendments to Claims 1 and 14 in question has now been cancelled, rendering Examiner's objections moot.